

Remarks

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application, after entry of this Amendment. By this Amendment, Claims 1, 4-8, 10-13, 16-18 and 20 are amended and new Claims 21-24 are added to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention.

Election of Species

In the March 27, 2007 Office Action (“the Office Action”), the Examiner issued a requirement for an election of species, identifying a first species (“Species A”) consisting of the pending claims addressed to the embodiment shown in Fig. 2 (i.e., Claims 1-6 and 13-16) and a second species (“Species B”) consisting of the pending claims addressed to the embodiment shown in Fig. 3 (i.e., Claims 7-12 and 17-20).

New Claim 21 covers the embodiments of Figs. 2 and 3 and is thus generic, while new Claim 22, which is dependent on new Claim 21, is addressed to Species A and new Claim 23, which is also dependent on Claim 21, is addressed to Species B. As a result, Claim 21 is a so-called “linking claim” (see MPEP § 809). New Claim 24 is addressed to Species A.

In response to the election of species requirement, Applicants elect the claims addressed to Species B (i.e., Claims 7-12, 17-20 and 23), without traverse. Applicants note that under MPEP § 809, the claims to the non-elected species, i.e., Claims 1-6, 13-16, 22 and 24, will be examined if the linking claim, i.e., Claim 21, is found to be allowable. To the extent that the Examiner does not find Claim 21 allowable, Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application addressed to the non-elected claims.

Conclusions

An Amster, Rothstein and Ebenstein LLP check in the amount of US\$ 300 is enclosed for the small entity fees necessary in connection with the filing of this

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Amendment, including US\$ 200 for two additional independent claims and US\$ 100 for four additional claims, over the twenty claim limit. If any additional fees are required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 01-1785.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: April 26, 2007
New York, New York